

Qualities of Those Who Created Great Legacies

The top ten characteristics of those who achieved legacies are:

1. **Focus** – Achievers who had a remarkable ability to keep their focus pinpointed on their work and to resist the distractions that so often derail the plans of non-achievers.
2. **Preparedness** - The second characteristic of great achievers is Preparedness. They made sure they were ready for the tasks ahead of them. This included obtaining the knowledge and training that was necessary, developing the connections, and acquiring the materials and resources they would need.
3. **Conviction** -Every single person believed fully in what they had to contribute. They were confident in their own skills and ideas; they had faith in the value of what they had to offer. This is what enabled them to endure the criticism, the opposition, and even the persecution their ideas triggered.
4. **Perseverance** - To listen to the life stories of the truly great is to listen to an almost unbelievable litany of physical suffering, emotional pain, mental torment, and material and financial adversity. Yet they endured through it all. They had an immense capacity for hard work and labor; their physical stamina was awesome; and their ability to persist in their efforts, in spite of hardship, loss and opposition makes them not only heroes, but in some cases martyrs.
5. **Creativity**- The fifth characteristic of great people is their CREATIVITY. Creativity is a word too often associated only with people in the arts. We tend to think of creative people as those who paint pictures, write books, or compose symphonies. Yet creativity exists in any career or field — and it existed in abundant amounts in the biographies in this program. To be creative is to be flexible and imaginative. It's an ability to work around problems, to find fresh solutions, to experiment with new approaches, and devise original plans.

6. **Curiosity** - Every person in this program had a burning desire to learn and know the truth. This desire might be confined to their own special field, or it might extend into all areas of life, and even to spiritual absolute truths, but their thirst for learning was unquenchable. They were always asking questions and seeking answers. To find those answers, they would seek out books and publications, confer with experts, travel hundreds of miles to meet a certain scholar and spend long, late nights reading, studying or experimenting.
7. **Resilience** - They had a remarkable ability to bounce back after mistakes and failures, regroup, and try again. In fact, most of them didn't accept failure as a reality — to them it didn't exist. What did exist was learning experiences. Every so-called failure was an opportunity to improve. Every step was a step forward, no matter how it appeared on the surface.
8. **Risk Taking** - If there is anything that threatens the potential of modern society, it's the complacency and the dependence on security and comfort. This was not the case with the great men and women of the past. They were more than willing to venture into the fields of the unknown and to gamble their reputations, their careers, their health, their wealth, and even their safety, in pursuit of their goal. Not only were they willing to take risks, but they thrived on it. They were true pioneers who dared to break with convention, to defy common thought and belief, to shatter the paradigms to which their societies were rigidly attached.
9. **Independence** - They all had a reliance on self, a detachment from the opinions and ways of the world, which enabled them to pursue their inner calling. Shakespeare's famous quote "To Thine Own Self Be True" was never more fully realized than in the lives of these great men and women who followed their own hearts first, and the expectations of others last.
10. **A Sense of a Higher Purpose** - To the great people of history, their work or goal was linked with something greater than the product itself. They felt united with some transcendental ideal or force, which they could often define. It might be God. It might be service to humanity. It might be Truth or Beauty. Whatever term one uses, they often felt, in their words, "called," or "divinely used"

or an "instrument in the hands of the Maker," or propelled by "a force they could not control."